

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 1724

DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY FOR SYVRUD AND EXIM FOR ALBRIGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PO

SUBJ: MEASURES TO RESTORE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF TWO BANKS

REF: LISBON 1671

1. TWO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTIONS PUBLISHED IN FEB. 28
DIARIO DE REPUBLICA ARE DESIGNED TO RESTORE FINANCIAL HEALTH
OF TWO NATIONALIZED BANKS, BANCO BORGES E IRMAO AND BANCO
PINTO DE MAGALHAES. PREAMBLE TO ONE RESOLUTION NOTES THAT
BOTH BANKS, IN ADDITION TO CARRYING LARGE VOLUME OF
APPARENTLY UNRECOVERABLE LOANS, SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES
IN 1975.

2. BANCO BORGES E IRMAO HAD BEEN LINCHPIN OF "BORGES E IRMAO"

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FINANCIAL/INDUSTRIAL GROUP CONTROLLED BY MIGUEL QUINA.
ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION, BANK LOANED MORE THAN 4.5 BILLION
ESCUDOS (\$176.1 MILLION AT 1975 RATE) FOR FINANCE
CONGLOMERATE'S REAL ESTATE AND STOCK PURCHASES.
IN ADDITION, IT CLAIMED BANK'S PRE-1975 PROFITS EXCEEDED
REAL PROFIT LEVELS BY 864.2 MILLION ESCUDOS (NOTE:
THE DOLLAR EQUIVALENT WOULD DEPEND ON PERIOD COVERED.

AAT 25 ESC/DOLLAR, FIGURE WOULD EQUAL \$34.6 MILLION).

3. BANCO PINTO DE MAGALHAES WAS CENTER OF SMALLER OPORTO-BASED GROUP OWNED BY FAMILY OF SAME NAME. RESOLUTION CHARGES THAT BANK, WHOSE BOND AND STOCK PORTFOLIO EXCEEDED LEGAL LIMITS, HAD LOANED 1.1 BILLION ESCUDOS (\$43 MILLION AT 1975 RATE) TO BANK'S PRESIDENT, AFONSO PINTO DE MAGALHAES.

4. COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION'S ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING MEASURES:

-- BANCO BORGES E IRMAO WILL REDUCE ITS CAPITAL BY 400 MILLION ESCUDOS (\$10.3 MILLION), TO COVER MOST OF 1975 LOSS, THEN RECEIVE CAPITAL INFUSION OF 1.25 BILLION ESCUDOS (\$32.3 MILLION) FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET)

-- BANCO PINTO DE MAGALHAES WILL REDUCE ITS CAPITAL BY 210 MILLION ESCUDOS (\$5.4 MILLION) TO COVER PART OF ITS 1975 LOSS, THEN RECEIVE CAPITAL INFUSION OF 440 MILLION ESCUDOS (\$11.4 MILLION) FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET; AND

-- APPARENTLY UNRECOVERABLE CREDITS (AS WELL AS UNRECOVERABLE LOSSES OF BANCO INTERCONTINENTAL PORTUGUES (BIP)--SEE REFTEL) WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO A NON-BANKING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION THAT WILL BE CREATED. IN RETURN, BANKS RECEIVE BONDS BEARING TOTAL INTEREST OF 11.5 PERCENT, AND VALUED AT NOMINAL AMOUNT OF LOANS PLUS INTEREST DUE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1975.
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5. COMMENT: FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TWO BANKS (AS WELL AS BIP) APPARENTLY PROVED TO BE AS SERIOUS AS RUMORED. CAPITAL INFUSIONS OF 1.7 BILLION ESC. \$43.7 MILLION), AND POSSIBLY 11.6 BILLION ESCUDOS \$300 MILLION) IN UNRECOVERABLE DEBTS, SIGNIFY HEAVY ADDITIONAL BURDENS ON GOP'S BUDGET.
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